

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 4. (CANCELED).

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A nail-setting claw hammer head, comprising:

a main body disposed along and about a horizontal axis, a vertical axis and a transverse axis which intersect one another perpendicularly at a point of intersection to define a center of mass, the main body having a top surface and a rear surface with the rear surface including a nail-head receiving recess formed therein; and a claw connected to the rear surface of the main body at a first end and forming a fulcrum surface with the top surface, the claw curving about the point of intersection and disposed apart from the rear surface, the claw terminating at a second end opposite the first end with a pair of claw sections defining a V-shaped slot therebetween, the nail-head receiving recess being positioned to face the V-shaped slot,

wherein the nail-head receiving recess has a curved surface extending into the rear surface of the main body and curving about a conical axis extending generally parallel with the vertical axis and a flat surface intersecting the curved surface and the flat surface is disposed between the curved surface and the point of intersection.

6. (ORIGINAL) A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 5, wherein the flat surface extends in a horizontal plane.

7. (ORIGINAL) A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 5, wherein the flat surface is oriented relative to a horizontal plane at an angle in a range of 0.5 degrees and 10 degrees.

8. (ORIGINAL) A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 5, wherein the flat surface is oriented to extend away from the point of intersection as viewed exteriorly of the nail-head receiving recess as the flat surface extends into the nail-head receiving recess.

9. (ORIGINAL) A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 5, wherein the nail-head receiving recess defines an opening on and into the rear surface of the main body.

10. - 12 (CANCELED).

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A nail-setting claw hammer head for holding a conventional nail having a shank portion and a nail head portion connected to the shank portion, the nail-setting claw hammer head comprising:

a main body disposed along and about a horizontal axis, a vertical axis and a transverse axis which intersect one another perpendicularly at a point of intersection to define a center of mass, the main body having a front surface, a top surface and a rear surface with the rear surface including a nail-head receiving recess formed and defined by a nail-head receiving recess surface extending into the rear surface of the main body;

an impact member connected to and projecting from the front surface, the impact member having a neck and a hammer face; and

a claw connected to the rear surface of the main body at a first end and forming a fulcrum surface with the top surface, the claw curving about the point of intersection and disposed apart from the rear surface, the claw terminating at a second end opposite the first end with a pair of claw sections defining a V-shaped slot therebetween, the nail-head receiving recess positioned to face the V-shaped slot such that the nail-head receiving recess is sized and adapted to receive the nail head portion of the nail and the V-shaped slot is sized and adapted to receive the shank portion of the nail in order to wedge the shank portion therein, wherein the nail-head receiving recess surface has a curved surface portion curving about a conical axis extending generally parallel with the vertical axis and a flat surface portion intersecting the curved surface portion.

14. (ORIGINAL) A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 13, wherein the flat surface is disposed between the curved surface and the point of intersection.

15. (ORIGINAL) A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 14, wherein the flat surface extends in a horizontal plane.

16. (ORIGINAL) A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 14, wherein the flat surface is oriented relative to a horizontal plane at an angle in a range of 0.5 degrees and 10 degrees.

17. (ORIGINAL) A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 16, wherein the flat surface is oriented to extend away from the point of intersection as viewed exteriorly of the nail-head receiving recess as the flat surface extends into the nail-head receiving recess.

18. (CANCELED).